

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 0144
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S E C R E T STATE 093309

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1,2

TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, MASS, IS, XF, LE

SUBJECT: CBU'S

REF: STATE 92585

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS) DAVID MCGIFFERT, WITH THE APPROVAL OF
THE DEPARTMENT, CALLED IN ISRAELI AMBASSADOR DINITZ ON
APRIL 11 AND TOLD HIM THE FOLLOWING:

QUOTE: ISRAEL'S USE OF CBU'S IN LEBANON WAS A CLEAR
VIOLATION OF ASSURANCES GIVEN TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MCAULIFFE IN DECEMBER

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1976. IT CALLS INTO QUESTION THE
WORTH OF GOI ASSURANCES TO US, NOT ONLY WITH REGARD TO
CBU'S BUT MORE GENERALLY. IT MAKES IT MUCH HARDER TO
SUPPORT RELEASE OF SENSITIVE ITEMS TO ISRAEL.

QUOTE: AMBASSADOR LEWIS IN TEL AVIV HAS PROPOSED TO THE
GOI THAT THE PRIOR ISRAELI ASSURANCES BE RENEWED IN AN

EXCHANGE OF NOTES. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FROM YOU (1) A REPORT ON HOW THE VIOLATION OCCURRED, AND (2) A DETAILED STATEMENT OF WHAT STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO INSURE THAT ASSURANCES GIVEN TO THE UNITED STATES ARE KNOWN AND EFFECTIVE IN THE CONTEXT OF ISRAELI DECISION-MAKING.

QUOTE: UNTIL WE ARE SATISFIED THAT NEW PROCEDURES GIVE EFFECT TO ISRAEL'S ASSURANCES, THERE WILL BE NO APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL CBU'S. A SIMPLE REAFFIRMATION OF EARLIER ASSURANCES WILL NOT SUFFICE. WHAT IS NEEDED IS A FIRM PROCEDURE WHICH PRECLUDES DECISIONS CONTRARY TO THE SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS ATTACHED TO CERTAIN WEAPONS.

QUOTE: IT IS IMPORTANT TO REGAIN THE CONFIDENCE WE HAD IN THE EFFECTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF ISRAEL'S ASSURANCES. WE NEED TO BE CONVINCED OURSELVES, AND TO BE ABLE TO ASSURE THE CONGRESS, ON THIS CRITICAL POINT.

QUOTE: WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR EARLY RESPONSE. UNQUOTE.

2. AMBASSADOR DINITZ HAD LITTLE TO SAY IN REPLY. HE SAID WE WERE NO DOUBT AWARE OF THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN AND AMBASSADOR LEWIS, AND THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF NOTES. HE ASKED WHETHER THE REQUEST WE WERE MAKING WAS IN ADDITION TO THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES
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PROPOSED BY AMBASSADOR LEWIS? MCGIFFERT SAID THAT THIS WAS AN ADDITIONAL REQUEST. DINITZ SAID HE WOULD INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT AND HE EXPECTED AN EARLY REPLY.

3. DINITZ SAID THAT, AS WE KNEW, ISRAEL HAD ADMITTED ITS ERROR. DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN HAD EXPRESSED HIS "DISENCHANTMENT" WITH WHAT HAD OCCURRED. DINITZ BELIEVED THAT WEIZMAN WOULD TAKE MEAYURES TO INSURE THAT THEIR OBLIGATION TO US WOULD BE FULFILLED.

4. DINITZ SAID THAT THE DECISION TO USE CBU'S WAS NOT A FRIVOLOUS ONE -- THAT CBU'S WERE NEEDED AND USED AGAINST MILITARY TARGETS. DINITZ SAID THAT OF COURSE THEY WERE WRONG AND SHOULD HAVE ASKED OUR PERMISSION BEFORE USING THEM.

5. MR. MCGIFFERT REITERATED OUR EXPECTATION OF AN EARLY RESPONSE.
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